

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Serial Number: 09/464,158

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Title: ASSAY FOR CARBOHYDRATE-FREE TRANSFERRIN

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Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for the determination of carbohydrate-free transferrin in a body fluid for use in the assessment of elevated alcohol consumption, said method comprising

- (a) contacting a sample of said body fluid with a carbohydrate-binding ligand, to bind any carbohydrate or carbohydrate-containing moieties in said sample to said ligand;
- (b) separating a carbohydrate-free transferrin containing fraction not binding to said ligand and
- (c) determining the content of transferrin in said fraction and thereby determining the content of carbohydrate-free transferrin in said sample.

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sample is blood or [a blood-derived sample] obtained from blood.

3. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate binding ligand is selected from antibodies or antibody fragments thereof, lectins and mammalian or microbial carbohydrate-binding proteins, [or] and mixtures thereof.

4. (Twice amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (a) a panel of more than one type of [different lectins are] lectin is used.

5. (Twice amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of Sambucus nigra lectin, *Sambucus sielbodiana* lectin, wheatgerm agglutinin, *Maackia amurensis* lectin, *E. coli* K99 lectin, *Helicobacter pylori* lectin, *Ricinus communis* lectin, and *Crotalaria junctae* lectin, and anti-sialic acid antibodies, and mixtures thereof.